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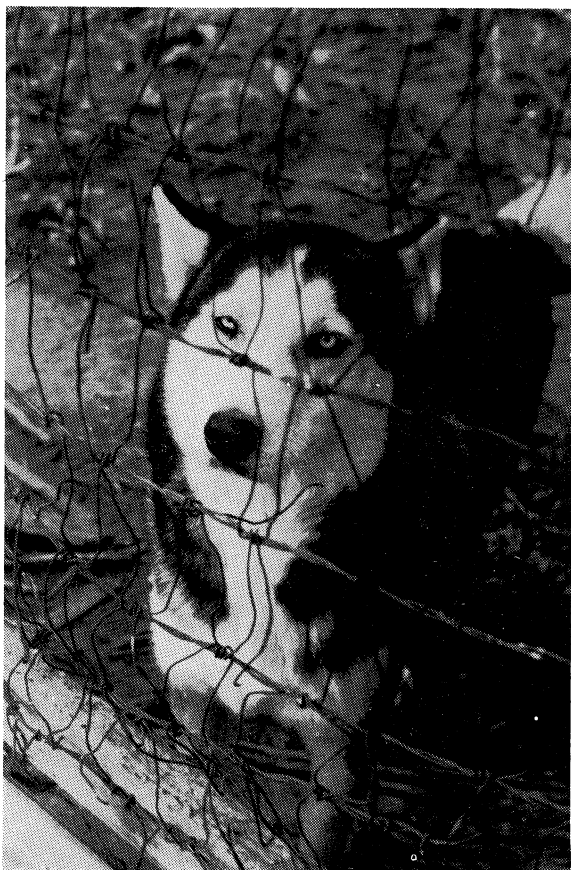


Midwest Regional Office

REPORT

THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES

Animals Suffer Neglect. . . Loopholes in Laws



Recently, the Midwest Regional office has uncovered inhumane conditions at two dog kennels, one outside Des Moines, Iowa, and the other near Wichita, Kansas. Regional director Ann Gonnerman reported her findings in the Iowa kennel. "The water was frozen and the cages filled with excrement. The dogs were unable to move without great effort in the old wire bottomed cages."

Many breeding facilities ignore humane care in their race for immediate profit. A kennel required to be licensed by the Department of Agriculture comes under the federal Animal Welfare Act. This law states animals

must be provided with food, water, shelter, and veterinary care. Because of their lack of compliance, both kennels have either given up their licenses or had them suspended by the USDA. But they remain in operation because state laws do not require minimum standards of care.

Ann Gonnerman and Mark Chamberlin, a reporter with KAKE-TV, went through a kennel near Wichita in December. The dogs were kept in wire mesh runs and flimsy wooden cages. The animals appeared to be cold and dirty.

"Two badly matted poodles sat shivering in their own filth," Gonnerman said. "A mixed breed dog had a large, open wound on its side and was running loose."

"These animals should not have to live in filth and suffer from poor nutrition," Gonnerman said. Committees are being set up in Kansas and Missouri to obtain state legislation that would require that kennels maintain certain minimum standards of care.



SORING AN OLD PROBLEM... A NEW BEGINNING

For the past six years, your Midwest Regional Director has been investigating the soring of Tennessee walking horses.

Soring is the practice of inflicting pain to alter the natural gait of walking horses. Acid solutions and varied devices cause pressure on the horses' feet and ankles. This cruel practice violates the Federal Horse Protection Act which provides criminal penalties and heavy fines for violators. And yet, because of inadequate funding and enforcement, walking horses continue to suffer.

Gonnerman monitored many walking horse shows throughout the 1978 season, witnessing the agony these horses are put through to win recognition and prize money. Conditions of the 1978 Missouri State Fair illustrate how serious the situation is.

"The first three nights walking horses with signs of being sored were allowed to show," Gonnerman stated. "They appeared to be in a great deal of pain." Since newer soring techniques can be difficult to detect, Gonnerman brought in Jerry Johnson, D.V.M., an equine specialist from the University of Missouri to assist the inspection team the night of August 24. Thorough inspections began; and as a result, several walking horses were not allowed to show.

The soring of Tennessee walking horses is a continuing problem, but Gonnerman's six years of work are paying off. She was asked to participate in meetings February 3 and February 18 with Taylor Woods, Missouri State Veterinarian; walking horse association representatives from Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Illinois; representatives from the Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders' and Exhibitors' Association; and the Walking Horse Owners' Association.

It is hoped these meetings will establish humane standards for the horse fanciers to follow.

MIDWEST UPDATE

Des Moines, Iowa - In a recent meeting with city officials, animal control officers were authorized to issue misdemeanor citations for violations of the Municipal Code relating to animal control. Issuing citations punishes irresponsible pet owners, not helpless animals.

St. Louis, Missouri - Mayor Conway appointed a task force of veterinarians, public health officials and animal welfare participants to study improvements needed at the public animal shelter. The Midwest office has been working with officials pushing for good standards of care. Temporary improvements include better sanitation, improved lighting, and repair of cages and windows.

Wichita, Kansas - After the Regional Director met several times with city officials and L. D. Loesch, D.V.M., director of the Wichita Animal Shelter, individual waterers have been attached to each cage in the shelter, ensuring each animal gets the water it needs. A concrete floor has been covered with epoxy and a new tile floor has been installed. Stronger and more protective adoption requirements are being developed.

The Needs Of Animals Will Continue Long After You Are Gone

Unfortunately, man's cruelty and irresponsibility to animals will not end during your lifetime. But a bequest through your Will will be a lasting contribution to the fight against these abuses.

The HSUS will send you a booklet without obligation on how to make the best use of your animal welfare bequest. It contains information on selecting recipients and describes how to proceed when you decide to write or change your Will.

Write in complete confidence to:
Murdaugh Stuart Madden, Vice President/
General Counsel, The Humane Society of the
United States, 2100 L Street, N.W.,
Washington, D.C. 20037.

From the Director's Desk



The Midwest Regional Office is celebrating its first birthday.

It's been a year of grueling work, logging thousands of miles of travel throughout the four-state area, and meeting with humane groups, public officials, and private organizations.

The results have been often encouraging, sometimes disappointing. Individual cases may be solved with visible results for the suffering animal. But it's even more important for us to devote our efforts to the abuses of pet overpopulation, the pet trade, Tennessee walking horses, animal transport, inhumane euthanasia, and the dozens of other large-scale, long-term problems. These, after all, affect many thousands of individual animals.

Finding solutions will require still more travel and meetings. There are several ways you can help make these efforts a reality for the animals:

Report to us your needs and activities. Often we can offer assistance or information. Also, these reports help document the need for stricter state regulations or better enforcement of existing laws and regulations.

Participate in state federation meetings and be a voice for animal welfare with your

public officials. Only by putting aside our differences and joining together can we achieve our common goal of eliminating callous treatment of animals.

Help support the work of your Midwest Regional Office through your donations. Every hour spent fundraising is an hour that is lost to working directly for the animals. Encourage your friends and fellow group members to join, too. Every individual membership, every donation, large or small, will increase the amount of time we can devote to helping pets, livestock, and wildlife throughout the region. We can't do it without you.

Let's join together to make 1979 a banner year for the animals!

Ann Gonnerman

COFFEE AND...

Experience has taught us that one of the most meaningful ways to discuss common concerns in the world of animals, and the work of The Humane Society of the United States, is in small groups. Such settings not only permit but encourage a free flow of questions related to the issues of legislation, sterilization, and education.

We invite interested parties to host a "Coffee and..." group in your home. As host you will be responsible for extending invitations to guests of your choosing. We suggest that the group not be larger than 10 or 12 individuals. Members of the Midwest Region staff will be available to you, and happy to serve as convener for such get-togethers. To arrange a house meeting, please contact Ann Gonnerman, Director of the Midwest Regional Office. 816-474-2070

DOG PACKS PLAGUE RURAL AREAS

Two recent incidents prove the need for better city and county animal control to prevent dog packs. News stories reported that dogs attacked a six year old boy in Richmond, Missouri and a horse in Lee's Summit, Missouri.

Six year old Eric Crow of Richmond, Missouri was attacked just 100 yards from home, according to the December 4 Kansas City Times. Eric suffered bites on the face and neck and will require skin graft surgery to replace 80 percent of his scalp.

"Domestic and feral dogs that pack together become very bold and will cause a considerable amount of damage to wildlife and livestock," said Ed Nichols, Senior Resident Agent of the Fish and Wildlife Service. "Something that this state needs

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DOG PACKS

(continued)

is dog legislation." Nichols' comments were made during his talk last fall at the wildlife symposium sponsored by the Missouri Federation of Humane Societies.

The Midwest Region talked with Richmond city officials over a month before this attack about lack of good animal control. The particular dogs were captured, but the problem remains unsolved.

After receiving complaints and advising Lee's Summit officials on humane traps, Ann Gonnerman inspected the stallion that had been attacked by a pack of dogs. "The animal was in bad condition," Gonnerman stated. "He was slashed and bitten all over. His spirit was destroyed." In this instance, the city of Lee's Summit took our advice and captured the dogs with live traps, but improved city and county animal control is needed to help prevent the suffering of people and animals.

HORSE CARE SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULED

An educational seminar on horses will be held March 31, 1979, from 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. at the Continuing Education Building, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa. It is being sponsored by the Iowa Federation of Humane Societies and the Veterinary Extension Service at the University.

The program will include discussion on breeding, health problems, training, practical horse psychology, food and shelter requirements, and horse safety guidelines.

A tour of the Livestock Pavillion and the Veterinary College will also be included.

The cost is \$15.00 per person (which includes a luncheon). For reservations or further information, write to:

Extension Courses and Conferences
Room 102, Scheman Continuing
Education Building
Iowa State University
Ames, Iowa 50011

YOU CAN HELP

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